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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/767,470	SUZUKI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Victor V Yevsikov	2825
The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.		
1. This communication is responsive to <u>paper, filed 01/30/2004</u> .		
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are <u>1-9</u> .		
3. The drawings filed on 30 January 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.		
 4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority una) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the: 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority do International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * Certified copies not received: 	e been received. e been received in Application N	No
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONN THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.		reply complying with the requirements
5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.		
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftspers 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner' Paper No./Mail Date	son's Patent Drawing Review (. s Amendment / Comment or in .84(c)) should be written on the c	the Office action of drawings in the front (not the back) of
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the depo attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT	sit of BIOLOGICAL MATER	IAL must be submitted. Note the
Attachment(s) 1. ☑ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. ☑ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/O Paper No./Mail Date 990 0 400 400 4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material	6. ☐ Interview Sum Paper No./Ma 98), 7. ☐ Examiner's An	

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-9 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Prior art does not teach a method of oxidizing work pieces wherein:

the reductive gas is supplied additionally from two or more independently controlled gas nozzles located at separate locations in the longitudinal direction of the processing vessel.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Victor Yevsikov whose telephone number is (571) 272-1910. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday –Thursdays 8:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, examiner's supervisor, Matthew S. Smith, can be reached on (571) 272-1907. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or processing is assigned is (703) 873-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published Application/Control Number: 10/767,470

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application may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished application is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

V. Yusivan

Victor Yevsikov Examiner Art Unit 2825

October 6, 2004

MATTHEW SMITH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800